

Amendments to the Claims:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) A support body for an apparatus having an extended nip being defined by a contact surface of the support body and an opposed surface, said support body

- has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said contact surface, and a bottom surface facing from the contact surface,
- is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said contact surface, and
- is elastically deformable and has its contact surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith,

wherein the support body is made of at least two layers of elastic material, said layers being joined to form a unit.

35. (New) The support body according to claim 34, wherein each of said layers forms a contact zone of the contact surface and the layers have different elasticities.

36. (New) The support body according to claim 34, wherein the support body is made of a plastic material or rubber material including polymer with or without reinforcing fiber or textile material.

37. (New) The support body according to claim 36, wherein the polymer is polyurethane.

38. (New) The support body according to claim 34, wherein the support body is adapted to operate at a load in the extended nip which varies from 0 to 3000 kN/m.

39. (New) The support body according to claim 34, wherein the support body has a dimension in the machine direction of 50-500 mm.

40. (New) A support device for an apparatus having an extended nip, comprising:

a support body, said support body

- has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said contact surface, and a bottom surface facing from the contact surface,
- is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said contact surface, and
- is elastically deformable and has its contact surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith; and

a holding device for the support body arranged to form a counterstay for said two side surfaces of the support body and directly or indirectly form a counterstay for said bottom surface of the support body, and wherein the support body has a top portion which has said contact surface and is arranged to protrude from the holding device at least in a nip-forming operation position of the support body.

41. (New) The support device according to claim 40, wherein the holding device has a space for receiving the support body, said space having two side surfaces for interaction with the opposite side surfaces of the support body, and a bottom surface facing to the bottom surface of the support body.

42. (New) The support device according to claim 41, wherein said top portion is arranged to protrude from the holding device, said bottom surfaces of the support body and holding device are in direct contact with each other, and the loading system comprises a power transmitting device arranged to move the holding device together with the support body in order to load the extended nip.

43. (New) The support device according to claim 42, wherein the power transmitting device is selected from the group consisting of hydraulic cylinders, pneumatic cylinders, and jacks.

44. (New) The support device according to claim 41, wherein the bottom surface of the support body is located at a distance from the bottom surface of the holding device to define an enclosed chamber therebetween, and the loading system comprises a power transmitting device including a pressure chamber formed by said enclosed chamber and arranged to be pressurized in order to move the support body in relation to the holding device in order to load the extended nip while the support body is elastically deformed.

45. (New) The support device according to claim 41, wherein the bottom surface of the support body is located at a distance from the bottom surface of the holding device to define an enclosed chamber therebetween, the loading system comprises a first power transmitting device arranged to move the holding device together with the support body from a first starting position with the contact surface of the support body at a distance from the opposed surface to a second starting position with the contact surface of the support body located adjacent or close to the opposed surface, and a second power transmitting device comprising a pressure chamber formed by said enclosed chamber and being arranged to be pressurized with an increased pressure in order to move the support body in relation to the holding device to load the extended nip while the support body being elastically deformed to form a nip-forming operation position.

46. (New) The support device according to claim 40, wherein the contact surface of the support body is covered by an exchangeable, thin wear protection layer having one side edge portion rigidly affixed to an upstream side of the holding device and an opposite side edge portion that is free to follow movement and deformation of the support body.

47. (New) An apparatus for the treatment of a fiber web that is manufactured in a paper or board machine, comprising a first structural element and a second structural element which is movably

arranged and has an opposed surface for interaction with the first structural element while forming an extended nip, said first structural element comprising a movable clothing and a support device comprising a support body having a contact surface which defines said extended nip together with the opposed surface, wherein said support body

- has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said contact surface, and a bottom surface facing from the contact surface,
- is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said contact surface, and
- is elastically deformable and has its contact surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith,

wherein the support body is made of at least two layers of elastic material, said layers being joined to form a unit.

48. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said support device also comprises a holding device for the support body arranged to form a counterstay for said two side surfaces of the support body and directly or indirectly form a counterstay for said bottom surface of the support body, and that the support body has a top portion which has said contact surface and being arranged to protrude from the holding device at least in the nip-forming operation position of the support body.

49. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein each of said layers of the support body forms a contact zone of the contact surface and the layers have different elasticities.

50. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the support body is made of rubber or polymer.

51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the support body is adapted to operate at a load in the extended nip which varies from 0 to 3000 kN/m.

52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the support body has a dimension in the machine direction of 50-500 mm.

53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the second structural element also comprises a said support body defining a contact surface forming said opposed surface.

54. (New) A press for the treatment of a fiber web that is manufactured in a paper or board machine, comprising a first press element and a second press element which is movably arranged and having an opposed surface for interaction with the first press element while forming an extended press extended nip, said first press element comprising a movable belt and a press device which comprises a press body having a press surface which defines said extended nip together with the opposed surface, said press body

- has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said press surface, and a bottom surface facing from the press surface,
- is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said press surface, and
- is elastically deformable and has its press surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith,

wherein the support body is made of at least two layers of elastic material, said layers being joined to a unit.

55. (New) The press according to claim 54, wherein the press device also comprises a holding device for the support body arranged to form a counterstay for said two side surfaces of the press body and directly or indirectly form a counterstay for said bottom surface of the press body, and the press body has a top portion which has said press surface and being arranged to protrude from the holding device at least in the nip-forming operation position of the press body.

56. (New) The press according to claim 54, wherein at least one of the opposed surface and the press surface is heated.

57. (New) The press according to claim 54, wherein each of said layers of the press body forms a contact zone of the press surface and the layers have different elasticities.

58. (New) The press according to any claim 54, wherein the second press element also comprises a said press body defining a press surface forming said opposed surface.

59. (New) A method of forming an extended nip in an apparatus that comprises a support body that has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said contact surface, and a bottom surface facing from the contact surface, that is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said contact surface, and that is elastically deformable and has the contact surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- mounting the support body in a holding device for the support body arranged to form a counterstay for said two side surfaces of the support body and directly or indirectly form a counterstay for said bottom surface of the support body, and wherein the support body has a top portion which has said contact surface and is arranged to protrude from the holding device at least in a nip-forming operation position of the support body;
- loading the support body by means of the loading system; and
- displacing the contact surface of the support body in the direction towards the opposed surface under the influence of said loading in order to elastically deform the contact surface and adaptation to the opposed surface.

60. (New) A method of controlling the load in an extended nip in an apparatus that comprises a support body that has two side surfaces facing from each other and connecting to said contact surface, and a bottom surface facing from the contact surface, that is arranged to be moved in the direction towards the opposed surface by means of a loading system in order to load the extended nip via said contact surface, and that is elastically deformable and has the contact surface adaptable to the opposed surface in interaction therewith, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- designing the support body of at least two layers of elastic material having different elasticity;
- mounting the support body in a holding device arranged to form a counterstay for said two side surfaces of the support body and directly or indirectly form a counterstay for said bottom surface of the support body, and wherein the support body has a top portion which has said contact surface and is arranged to protrude from the holding device at least in a nip-forming operation position of the support body;
- loading the support body by means of the loading system; and
- displacing the contact surface of the support body in the direction towards the opposed surface under the influence of said loading in order to elastically deform the contact surface and adaptation to the opposed surface in order to obtain an extended nip having a load profile in dependence of different elasticities of the layers.